



# nscquire

Official Newsletter of the Engineering Undergraduate Student Society

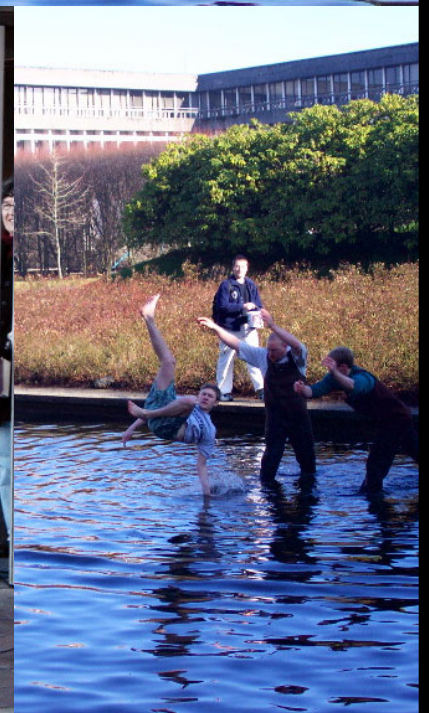
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Spring 2003



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## The Prez Sayz

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Hi everyone,

Hopefully your spring semester has treated you well. Nothing like 151 or 351 to test your endurance. There has been lots happening with the school, with the grads moving to MTF and our long awaited computer lab finally here. The school is undergoing external review soon, so we've been fighting ongoing battles with the powers upstairs to keep up the program quality in face of expansion. For more, read "EUSS year in review" on the EUSS web page.

My term as your president (actually my undergrad career) is almost complete. Yeah, when I'm finally comfortable with the swing of things, balancing cleaning up and delegating with a smile, I'm done. This year was real rebuilding year for the EUSS. We had to relearn some lessons, adapt to the changing population, and feel out the new administration in the department. We have many great ideas to improve the school, and we'll be needing lots of enthusiastic people to execute them. Together, we will bring great pride back to being an SFU Engineer!

The new executives has just been elected in, congratulations to all our fresh blood! Even so, we always seek students to get involved. You can work on just one project to try things out, and there are many events that you can help with. Think you can do better as a midnight madness judge? Join us for the planning in the summer!

I'm glad to see Polar Plunge went so well, a very healthy \$2239 raised for the Variety Club. Nothing like dressing up and singing songs to feel like a community. Anyone else want to do it more often? The Talent Show from Wayne Chen, the Ap-Sci Volleyball tournament, the 3-on-3 basketball tournament from Ian Chan, Rollerhockey by JP Lee all went great. And of course the newest tradition, the Year-End Formal Banquet! We are very excited to welcome computer, kinesiology and communication students this year, and I hope you got a chance to meet some fun people you may not have met otherwise.

That's all the babbling for now, good luck on your exams and the rest of your career. I will remember my time here at SFU with great pride, having graduated and been active in one of the best programs in the country.

-Gregory Fung

## From the Editor

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Hi All,

I hope all of you are having a great semester! The spring semester has sure kept me busy. After returning home from my coop term (check out my article about escaping the pit), I plunged into a sea of responsibilities ranging from school, work to putting together the Enquire. In this issue of Enquire you will find a variety of articles with topics ranging from academic honesty to conferences to baking. If you have ideas for future issues get involved. The Enquire team is always in need of volunteers. Good luck on you finals! Cheers!

-Biljana Pecelj

## More than just printer cards by Brandon Ngai

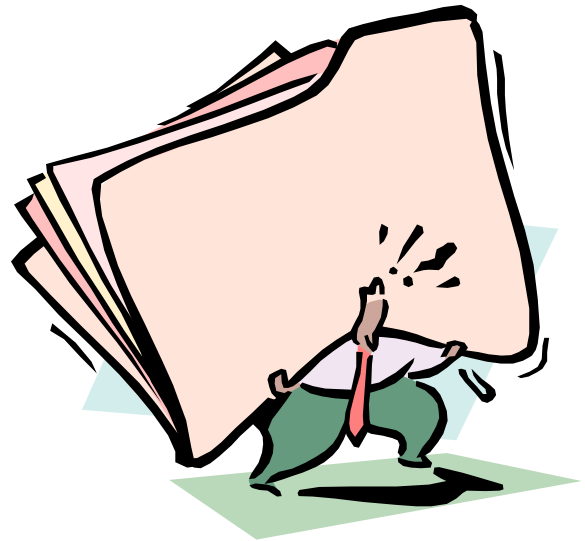
Just what is the EUSS? What is it all about? What does it do for engineering students? Printer cards, definitely. But there's so much else, and it's up to you, engineering students, our members!

In another month or so, the EUSS will see a new executive council. This past year has been challenging at times for the executive. Our program has gone through many changes and the executives have been busy making sure those changes are positive for us, students. But we're not done yet. We're just beginning to see the impacts on the academics and the students. Over the next few years, we'll need to continue working reflectively with the department to address issues rising from the growth in our school.

During this past year, we have noticed areas where we can improve the structure of our society. The EUSS Constitution has been amended to provide for a VP Professional Relations and a VP Interuniversity Relations, which will replace VP External, as well as four First Year Representatives.

In addition, it has been proposed that executives be removed from chairing committees so that other members may do so. This will lessen the workload on the executives, as well as provide more opportunities for volunteers to help with the society in a smaller, less responsible role. With these amendments and other proposed changes, we hope to strengthen our society by bringing in new opinions and ideas in the form of people.

Remember that the EUSS is our student society. All engineering students are members of the EUSS, which represents us to the department, the university, and other student societies across Canada, the US, and Europe. Have a say in how you are represented. Speak to the executives, attend a general meeting, read the Enquire. The society functions only when there are people involved. And believe it or not, the EUSS isn't just about printer cards.



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## Year in Review as VP External by Olha Lui

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Dear students,

Since the election for EUSS is just around the corner, I've decided to do a report on what I've done, learnt and want to pass on to my successor. It was a great experience for me to speak on behalf of our student society to the industry in the Lower Mainland. I was proud to represent you, our students, since often I would hear comments from industry representatives about excellent employees or fabulous co-op students from our program. It was easy for me to find a common ground with such companies, thanks to your great work in the field. Keep it up!

We have loyal supporters in Lower Mainland, such as APEG BC, Creo, BC Hydro, and Broadcom, to name a few. There are still many companies out there that are anxious to learn about us and would be willing to join us on a road of building student-industry relationships. During the annual general meeting of APEG BC, I met many great P. Eng's. They showed a genuine interest in the wellbeing of students and gave me plenty of personal first-hand advice on how to achieve success in engineering. For them, we are the continuity and future pride of the profession. Hint: Join APEG's Member Advantage Program for students (MAPS) and come out for the events that your local chapter are organising! This is your chance to get some advice from wise men and women.

OpFair 2003 was a success, given the market slowdown this year. Representatives from Honeywell, Crystal Decisions, Creo and APEG volunteered their time to cheer you guys up: there are opportunities out there and many interesting projects! To me, OpFair was a sign of stability and with the market improving, we will see higher participation from industry and students. This event would not have happened without the guidance from our student volunteers (Linda Wu, Josephine Wong and others) and our sponsors. Thanks to everyone! Hint: make a note in your calendar for February 2004 to volunteer for the next OpFair!

Industry Night, the event that APEG is organising for us, is another "show of heart" from local companies and P. Eng's. For students, it's a great opportunity to network, meet new professionals and collect tips about future jobs. For industry representatives, this event provides a way of communicating with students directly to promote their companies and to support us. Thanks to Shelley Lebar, APEG Student Coordinator! Hint: attend Industry Night! It's your chance to learn and to shine!

Personally, volunteering for this position has helped me master my soft skills. I had a chance to practice presenting myself at networking events, to maintain a conversation on different technical and social topics, and to communicate my ideas in person and in writing. I improved greatly in my time management and organisational skills. Also, I've learned to be creative, to think "outside the box", and about the financial cycle of companies, which is important for fundraisers. Hint: Did you know that Paul Dyck, HR Director at Spectrum Signal Processing, considers soft skills as the number one distinguishable feature of a successful new grad?! Do you want to learn or improve on your soft skills? Volunteer for VP External at the EUSS!

In these past seven months, I secured \$4200 for our society. This was a great learning experience for me on the skills of persuasive talking, writing and having phone conversations with HR people. Message to my successor: given that the economical situation is improving, I dare you to raise twice as much!

...continued from page 4

Don't worry, I'll be there for support. Finally, thanks to all EUSS executives, your support has helped me to stay focused. Thanks to all my friends: your sympathy regarding weekly long meetings made me feel pampered, and thanks to all the students: your healthy criticism helped me work harder!

Sincerely yours,

Olha Lui

## VP Finance Report by Stella Li

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Hi y'all!

It's your VP Finance again. It's been a hectic 2 semesters. I've ended up doing more than my "elected" duties due to the lack of volunteers <ahem>.



Started with helping out on the First Week guide then it grew into helping out with First week. Scavenger hunts, cooking 200 burgers and Midnight Madness in addition to collecting First Week fees (which some of you STILL haven't paid yet) within the first week of classes. You want to learn multi-tasking? Run for office.

After the first week rush, things trickled down until the App-Sci V-ball tournament where the Battle Hamsters once again came in last. Wrote several articles for the Enscquire before trekking off to North Battleford, Saskatchewan in the middle of November to attend the WESST Retreat, a meeting of all the Engineering student societies in Western Canada. That was an adventure to remember since I was stranded at the airport for 3 hours before my ride from U of Manitoba showed up (they hit a deer on the way there).

January started off by returning to Saskatchewan, this time, Saskatoon, to attend the CFES Congress. There I met students and made friends from all over Canada in addition to some from the US and Europe. Days were spent as valuable knowledge sharing sessions where we learned to improve our student societies, while the nights were spent partying with fellow engineers. Believe it or not, engineers DO know how to party. Hoe-down!!

After one week in the Prairies, it was back to beautiful Vancouver to start planning the Polar Plunge. Overall, the event was successful since we raised \$2239, more than last year, for the Variety Club despite the recent tuition hike. But success would not have happened without the help of my wonderful volunteers!!

As the semester winds down, my term is coming to an end. It's been a memorable year. I've learnt a lot (i.e. taking on too many things is very stressful) and am still learning (i.e. like saying "no" when I don't want to help).

Later!  
Stella

## ESSEF: Recent Past, & Hopes for the Future by Denesh Pohar


As most of you know, the Engineering Science Student Endowment Fund (ESSEF) has been an important source of funding for undergraduate student projects, conference travel expenses, and more since its establishment in 1997.

In recent years, the ESSEF has hosted visits from the fund's most consistent donor, the Kaiser Foundation of Higher Education. This past November, the ESSEF hosted an open house to showcase the development of some recipient ENSC 340 student projects to external visitors. Visitors to this open house included representatives from the Kaiser Foundation, APEGBC, National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP), and a local venture capitalist firm.

Since the summer of 2002, the ESSEF has received almost \$45,000 in external donations, including \$28,000 from the Kaiser Foundation and slightly under \$15,000 from the Motorola Foundation. This brings the ESSEF's current capital to slightly over \$200,000.

In the near future, the ESSEF will be expanding its assets to include reusable hardware components, thus augmenting the purely financial assistance offered presently by the fund. This will help the fund assist more groups while exhausting fewer resources, which is important during this time of rising tuition and increasing student population.

-Denesh Pohar



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## Geek Newz by Derek Sahota

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Well it has been a year since I joined the EUSS as VP Electronic Communications, also known as VP anything-to-do-with-technology-is-your-responsibility. While most of my time was spent updating and revising webpages, I also tried to create some new content and prevent (unsuccessfully) the implosion of the EUSS computer. As you hopefully all know, we now have an online members section hosted at <http://www.sfu.ca/euss>. /\*begin shameless plug\*/ If you have any old exams your fellow students would greatly appreciate it if you could get the to the student society to be posted online. /\*end plug\*/ This new site allows us to use the main authentication files for the school's web services and prevents all of you from having to remember another password.



Looking forward, I'd like to see the development of a php-based site for the student society. Hey, the Computing Science Student Society (CSSS) has advanced beyond html; even if it is ugly we can't let them be ahead of us! The current obstacle is finding an appropriate host as our current host only has, err, php 3.07 installed and no database availability. Anyone who's interested in developing such a site with dynamic content, such as a web-based bulletin board, picture galleries, etc, should contact [euss-vp-elec-comm@sfu.ca](mailto:euss-vp-elec-comm@sfu.ca). That's about enough from me, especially since the Enscquire submission deadline passed 2 minutes ago.

## VP Events Update by Min Seo

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Your former VP Events, Josephine Wong had been elected to the SFSS as the AppSci Rep and that gave me an opportunity to jump in and muddy the water. Since mid-January 2003, I established myself as your new VP Events (as if anybody actually noticed -\_-;).

Most of you will remember me as the guy with the tear-aways from this year's Polar Plunge. To this day, I still can't figure out why I wore tear-aways on that particular day. I guess as a first-time plungee, I didn't think about the possibility of humiliating myself in front of hundreds of people. But seriously...I do have a name and it's Min G. Seo. I am a fourth year student in the electronics option. I am hoping to graduate before the 2010 Olympics...hopefully...-\_-;;

As VP Events, I have a responsibility to try and make this hectic semester as least painful as possible by organizing events where participants will have a good time and not think about homework, labs, projects, exams and so on. One of the biggest events this semester is the AppSci Volleyball Tournament. The tournament is open to anyone who is enrolled in at least one Applied Science courses. (Engineering, Computer Science, Kinesiology and Communications) We have been receiving some enthusiastic responses from other applied science faculties and we would like to see more engineering students play in this tournament.

Obviously you guys are drenched in a heavy workload and would like nothing more than to crawl into your beds whenever you manage to scarp together a few minutes of spare time. But maybe, participating in AppSci events will give you an opportunity to meet others just like you. Who knows, you might even enjoy the fact that they are suffering the same fate. Enough rambling for now...Cheers!

## WECC 2003 Results

### ◆ Editorial Communications

Gold: **Eric Hennessey**, SFU, A Little Hope  
 Silver: **Natisha Joshi**, SFU, Computer Modelling:  
 From equations to the Kyoto Protocol

### ◆ Explanatory Communications

Gold: **Shaun Jackman**, SFU, JPEG Image  
 Compression

### ◆ Entrepreneurial Design

Bronze: **Shaun Jackman**, SFU, Smart Fridge  
 Silver: **Chris Mitchell, Hani Mehrpouyan and  
 Matt Brown**, SFU, Valuables Monitoring Device  
 (Secure Solutions)  
 Gold: **David Poon, James Hu, and See-Ho  
 Tsang**, SFU, Vital Chart Bio-Reader

Total WECC winners by school:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
U of Saskatchewan:	3	3	3
<b>SFU :</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
U of Alberta:	0	2	1
U of Manitoba:	1	0	0
UBC :	0	0	1
U of Calgary:	0	0	0
U of Regina:	0	0	0
UVic A:	0	0	0
UVic B:	0	0	0



## CEC 2003 Results

### ◆ Editorial Communications

Gold: Andrew MacDonald (Dalhousie University)  
 Silver: **Eric Hennessey (Simon Fraser  
 University)**  
 Bronze: Isabelle Grenon-D'Amours & Yannick  
 Laroche (Université Laval)

### ◆ Entrepreneurial Design

Silver: **David Poon, James Hu & See-Ho Tsang**  
 Bronze: **Chris Mitchell & Hani Mehrpouyan**

## SPECIAL AWARDS

- ◆ **Social Awareness:** Eric Hennessey
- ◆ **Technical Excellence:** Chris Mitchell & Hani Mehrpouyan



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## CFES Congress 2003-Brandon Ngai, Stella Li and Hans Johnson

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, three intrepid explorers/students set out from SFU to conquer the frozen wastelands of the Canadian prairies. After 27 long hours on Greyhound, we arrived at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, to attend the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students Congress.



**The SFU delegation: (L to R) Brandon Ngai, Stella Li, Hans Johnson.**

Congress provides a unique forum for engineering students representing their engineering student societies, engsocs, from across the country, the United States, and Europe to gather and share ideas.

In fine engineering tradition, Congress followed the ethos of “Work hard, play hard”. During daytime hours, we spent long hours meeting in workshops and seminars, working through various issues affecting engineering students across Canada, as well as touring local industry.

As the EUSS is a member of the CFES, we have a say in the Federation’s activities and direction for the coming year. The CFES is currently organizing a number of key initiatives for Canadian engineering students including the CFES Café, an online gateway for students, employers, and professionals; Complementary Education courses, a set of intensive workshops focusing on career-related and technical skills; and, an International Engineering Competition, which should debut by 2005. These are in addition to Project Magazine, the official voice of Canadian engineering students, and the Canadian Engineering Competition, which McMaster University will host next year.

The seminars also provided a wealth of information, on a whole variety of subjects, from professional development, such as legal issues facing practicing engineers, to issues affecting local engineering student societies, such as how to make engsoc events more inclusive, improving morale, and so forth.

There were a variety of local companies we could tour, including a natural gas power plant, potash mine, agricultural biotechnology company, as well as the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron. These tours provided an interesting glimpse into industry goings-on in Saskatchewan.

After the workday was complete though, it was time to party. Each night, there was a hospitality suite that lasted long into the night, with much drinking and carousing. The highlight of the nights was the party hosted by the Congress organizing committee from U of S, where we had a private concert from Wide Mouth Mason.

## ...CFES Congress 2003 continued

Other notables included the indoctrination of all of us westerners as honorary Newfies by drinking a shot of screech and kissing a turbot (unfortunately, there wasn't a cod to be found in all of Saskatoon).

The only drawback to all this merrymaking was that your three intrepid delegates had to be down in the meeting rooms by 8:30 the next day to begin the next set of meetings. As a result, some delegates never got ready in time since they wanted that extra few minutes of sleep.

There were also, the Congress traditions that we were all exposed to. A mistranslation of "semi-formal" to "half dressed" in the past sparked an annual tradition in which the Quebec delegates attend the final banquet in their boxers.

Of course, the WESST guys didn't want to miss the fun and thus joined in by taking their shirts off for the WESST photo.

All in all, Congress was an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Not only were we able to meet with our counterparts from other schools, in doing so, we also showed our SFU pride.

We would like to encourage you to ask us about the Federation and its current activities. If you find yourself interested in representing SFU engineering nationally, next year's Congress will be in Victoria, BC, so make sure you get involved!



Dan Gelbart then: 12-year old inventor

Dan Gelbart now: Co-founder & CTO, Creo

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## SFU's Engineers Without Borders by Kevin Wong

Just a month ago, our Engineers Without Borders chapter sent three delegates to the EWB National Conference. This second annual conference, hosted by the University of Waterloo, attracted more than two hundred EWB members from across Canada and around the world. SFU's Eric Hennessey (Chapter President), Kevin Wong (Director of Fundraising), and Oscar Huang (VP Finance) were the delegates and promoters of the SFU chapter.

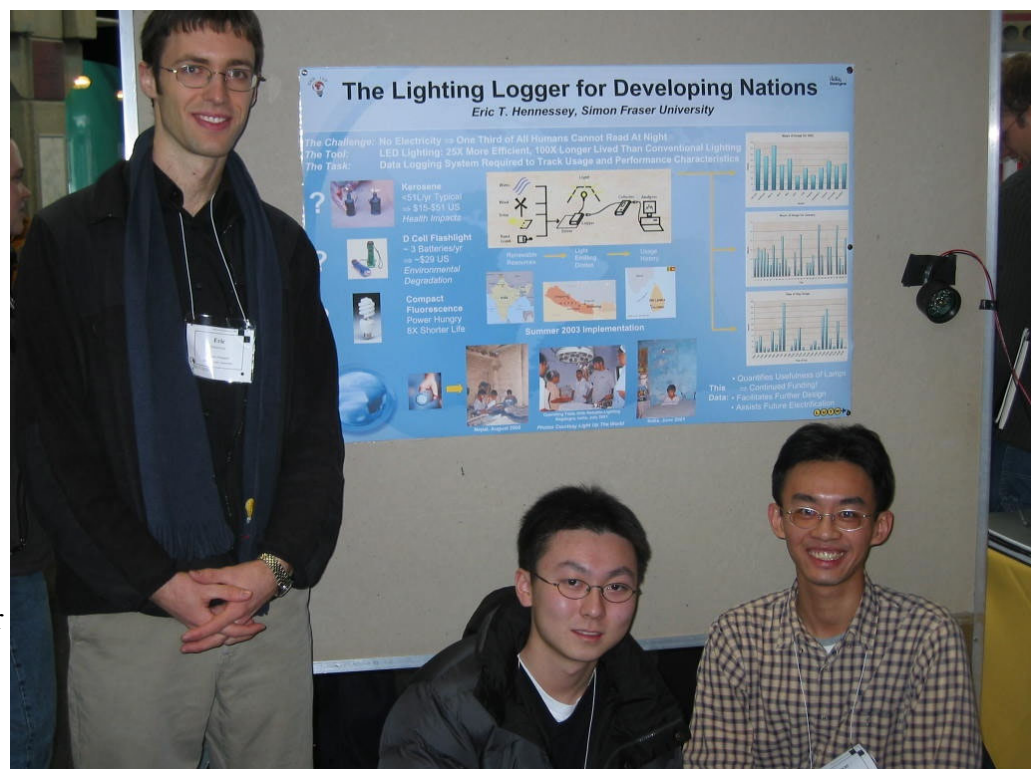
The three day conference brought together professionals and students to share experiences and new ideas on one common ground: international development. At the conference, a project fair showcased all ongoing projects at different EWB chapters (including our own), a wide variety of workshops demonstrated methods of developing sustainable technology, and several keynote speakers brought out the best of everyone's heart. Many who were invited to speak at the conference were of authority; not of power, but of experience. In particular, Flora McDonald (former Minister of Foreign Affairs) and Dr. James Orbinski (former Nobel Prize recipient and President of Médecins sans Frontières) made inspirational speeches that led to standing ovations. Flora used Afghanistan as an example to show the conditions of poverty through her visual journals and brought us to think of what we as engineers can do as part of international development and as humanitarians. Dr. Orbinski shared his experiences with Doctors Without Borders and challenged all the attendees to stand for their beliefs, holding their values close and acting upon them.

The conference was a great experience for our delegates and they will be sharing their experiences with many of our prospective students for many years to come. SFU's EWB is now concentrating on the implementation of two projects this summer: first with Eric Hennessey's Light Up The World Data Logger followed by the Uganda Energy Solution project.

**Big plan ahead:** Hosting the EWB National Conference right here at SFU.

There are many things in the world that you will not be able to do yourself. Why not make the best out of what you can do? Visit [www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca) or email Eric Hennessey [eth@sfu.ca](mailto:eth@sfu.ca) or Kevin Wong [khwong@sfu.ca](mailto:khwong@sfu.ca) for more information.

**Photo Courtesy of:**  
[www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca)



**SFU EWB Team at the National Conference in Waterloo**

## "Survey finds cheating rampant on campus" by Rhiannon Coppin.

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*Reprinted with the permission of the Peak and Rhiannon Coppin.*

The Peak Sixty-three per cent of faculty and 41 per cent of teaching assistants and tutor markers surveyed at Simon Fraser University have ignored suspected cheating cases, a report authored by university's Academic Integrity Task Force has found.

The report, which will be released by the end of the spring term cites "lack of evidence" as the number one reason why cases of suspected cheating are not investigated. Susan Stevenson, senior lecturer in engineering and chair of the task force, reported that most students find it "too easy to cheat and too easy to get away with it."

Of the 97 faculty respondents, 20 per cent felt that they lacked the time and 17 per cent lacked sufficient motivation to deal with cases of suspected cheating. Tutor markers and teaching assistants tended to ignore suspected cheating because they were told to ignore it by faculty, or because they assumed their faculty would be unsupportive of an investigation.

Types of academic dishonesty considered in the survey include falsifying lab data, "recycling" of labs, fabrication of bibliographies, extensive plagiarism in papers, homework copying, illegal group work, and copying on exams.

Students are aware that their peers are cheating, and that they are going largely unpunished. Out of 1,886 student responses to last fall's survey, 38 per cent were certain that they witnessed cheating on test or exam within the last year. According to Dean Mellow, professor of linguistics, most students are aware that the penalties for first-time offenders are lax.

Glenn Landry, graduate student in psychology agreed with that view. "I see the issue of academic dishonesty as being a cost-benefit issue. If the benefit for the student is that they are going to get a higher grade than they would normally, and if it is incredibly unlikely that they will get caught, and even if they do get caught, that they will get punished for it, the benefit is incredibly high."

An open workshop with limited space was held last Thursday in the Halpern Centre to discuss some of the implications of the survey results.

Some of the stories told were simply outrageous.

Mellow reported that he knew of "people actually stealing other people's student IDs to kick them out of courses, so they can register in full courses."

Greg Fung, Engineering Undergraduate Student Society president related how routine cheating is to some students. "Teams of people who regularly cheat together sit in the same area in an exam. I think the affectionate term is 'tag-teaming.' I hear rumours of discussions after exams: 'Oh, I'm so glad you got that. I would never have figured that out.'"

Silva Tenenbein, an instructor in the school of communication, shared perhaps the most shocking story of

... "Survey finds cheating rampant on campus" continued

the session. "I was teaching a course a few years ago and a student of mine bought a paper and wrote a note to his sister that said: 'Retype this and insert these three entries into the bibliography.' What I received was the original paper with the grade on it, the note, and the retyped paper all in the same package."

The room burst out laughing after this tale. When she explained that, because of administrative decisions based on other factors, the student eventually received a B+ for the course, the room sobered up.

Other topics broached included academic dishonesty among faculty, the possibility of allowing a later-term drop-date, student attitudes on the purpose of a university education, pressures that encourage students to cheat, and the possibility of employing remediation techniques to educate offenders. Towards the end of the discussion, the consensus appeared to be that consequences for cheating should be more severe.

"I'm aware of a university where you have a mark on your transcript if you fail a course for academic dishonesty. It's something permanent," Mellow said.

One point was repeatedly made concerning undergraduate academic dishonesty: faculty are too busy to teach, and too busy to police their students.

Krista Vogt, program development coordinator for Campus Community Services, finally noted that every envelope that leaves SFU mail is stamped "Research Matters," not "Teaching Matters."

**A FEW MORE POLAR PLUNGE HIGHLIGHTS...**



**Dr. Rawicz after doing his duty for charity.**

The 15th Annual Polar Plunge took place at the start of February. The event was a great success. In total over \$2000 was raised for the Variety Club. Thanks to all the plungees, supporters and organizers for a making it a success!



**Polar Plunge "victims" recovering at the SFU Beer Garden.**



**Brandon and See-Ho entertaining the crowd.**

## Hug an EUSS Exec NOW! by Shirin Farrahi

Did you realize that EUSS execs get paid a \$500 per month? Did you also know that most co-op employers look first and foremost for an EUSS mention on résumés? In addition, the pub gives free beer to EUSS execs.

Yes, the fantasy world is a great place to visit. The real world tells a different story: EUSS execs do have fun in meetings and hanging out together, but they get paid nothing for undertaking sometimes enormous amounts of work and looking out for the interests of the undergraduate engineering population.

In my two years in ENSC at SFU, I have become increasingly saddened by the violent under-appreciation of EUSS executive members. I can only imagine that most engineers don't realize how much the EUSS contributes to our engineering education. If it were not for them, us 'geers would not have the cheapest printing on campus, cheapest pop on campus, most-welcoming lounge on campus, nor - horror of all horrors - would we have access 24-hours a day to a FOOSBALL TABLE.

I have seen many engineers who spend, on average, one hour every day playing foosball. That's more than some people spend studying! I'm not sure that many of us acknowledge that the WECC 2001 organizing committee bought that table with money fundraised by the stoic, hardworking organizers. The magazines and newspapers which provide us with a glimpse of the "world-out-there" on a daily basis are also present due solely to EUSS funding. The EUSS even provides a reluctant student slave to perform maid service to the lounge on a weekly basis!



Most students I've spoken to are under the erroneous impression that a university janitor decontaminates the lounge, but no, a fellow masochistic student of yours is cleaning up your messes on the tables. There is no other motivation for him or her other than trying to make life in the lounge more enjoyable for everyone in engineering and less enjoyable for insects, rodents, and computer scientists.

I myself partially credit the EUSS for maintaining the inviting atmosphere in the lounge. I've perceived that many students, even our neighbours in Comp. Sci., are envious of our community atmosphere. But, then again, most of us aren't conscious enough of our own role in keeping the lounge clean.

Did you know that the EUSS follows the engineering department's curriculum, co-op, grading, cheating, and academic probation policies and is regularly consulted as "the voice of engineers"? The EUSS are often asked to give feedback, as a student perspective, on faculty and lab staff hiring evaluations. Did you also know, for example, that much of the 40% of the higher tuition fees you pay for engineering courses are currently being put right back into the School of Engineering? The EUSS looks out for student interests when no one else does.

I fear that our collective apathy and lack of appreciation of the services and goods the EUSS provides may soon cause the EUSS to fade away. Already, there are hardly ever enough candidates to fill the elected EUSS executive positions every semester. I suppose, though, it is to be expected: who would want to work so hard, while carrying the same heavy course load, and yet be totally under-appreciated and misunderstood?

## ...Hug an EUSS Exec continued

I've also heard that some students think that the \$30 first-year fee pays for many of the EUSS expenses. Most of that is used up right away to run first week activities. Most other Engineering societies at other Canadian schools collect annual dues, varying from \$30 to \$50 dollars each September! Besides, when you're all going to be here for six years, their one time fee slices out to dues of \$5 per year. (If you stay longer, I guess you get a better deal!)

So, pause and take a moment to imagine a day in engineering without the spacious lounge, the genteel microwave, the cheap pop, the dope printing, the phat foosball, and the daily spam. No, scratch that last one. Perhaps instead of mistreating the foosball table or complaining when your favourite pop is sold out, try taking one of your procrastination moments to tidy part of the lounge (sooooo therapeutic!), or to tell an EUSS executive that he or she is, in fact, looking quite foxy today.

We all have mad midterms and stupid course loads, but a little understanding can make our collective undergraduate experiences in engineering a little more, well, smooth.

*Coppin*

*-edited by Rhiannon*

## SFU Theatre –Diamonds in the Rough by Scott Logie

It's a Friday night, not much going on. Maybe you live in residence on Burnaby Mountain, maybe you don't. But it seems like another night that will either be spent renting a video or sitting at home watching television. You, like thousands of other students at Simon Fraser University, are missing out on one of the most exciting sources of entertainment available: the SFU theatre.

The SFU Theatre program is small, with fewer than 100 actors, designers, and technicians. But their theatre schedule is filled with productions in the fall and spring that are open and available to all students as a great source of entertainment.



This semester, the **Black Box** offered five performances of completely student-written sketch comedy and scenes in Studio II at SFU. This one-hour show was put together from scratch over a two-week process featuring an incredibly talented troupe of actors from the theatre programme comprising of Benjamin Carson, Nicole Deslauriers, Ben Drysdale, and Spencer Herbert with special guests. The final performances of this series will take place March 27 (7PM) at March 28(7PM/9PM). Tickets are free, so arrive early.

At the end of February, the SFU main stage production of Marc Diamond's **Antigone** opened. This production was an adaptation of the Sophocles tragedy by an SFU theatre professor. Antigone featured a cast of sixteen, and it was the culmination of a five-year process of development. Contact the SFU theatre box office at **(604) 291-3514** for more information about upcoming events.

It amazes me, as an engineer turned acting student, how little known the SFU theatre is to the students at Simon Fraser University. The shows that I've seen and been a part of have been spectacular and apart from being a guaranteed night of entertainment, they are a great chance to support the creative efforts of other students on campus.

## Hug an engineer! by Hans Johnson and Brandon Ngai

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Commuters going up Gagliardi Way on the morning of Monday, March 3 were treated to an unexpected surprise. A banner reading “Hug an Engineer” dangled from the pedestrian bridge in celebration of National Engineering Week, March 3 to 7.



**The banner hangs above Gagliardi Way.**

The banner was part of a nation-wide campaign to promote the engineering profession. An idea put forward by the University of Saskatchewan, schools across Canada were encouraged to hang their own banner. SFU’s banner was the first to go up, followed by Saskatchewan, Toronto, Calgary, and Dalhousie.



**A banner hangs from a University of Saskatchewan building.**

Banner organizers say the task was a test of their ingenuity. “We had to think about many things, the fact that it had to withstand rain and it couldn’t fall onto traffic. It was definitely an engineering problem.”

Although the banner was removed later that day, as quickly and mysteriously as it had appeared, banner organizers say they weren’t disappointed. “Our job was done. We got the word out that SFU Engineering exists.” When asked how many hugs they had received, they answered, “Enough.”



## Escaping the Pit by Biljana Pecelj

Are you tired of the Pit? Frustrated by the lack of coop opportunities? Need a break from school? There is a way to escape the Pit, travel, take a break from school and receive coop credit all at once. How is this possible? IAESTE makes all this possible and more.

What is IAESTE? The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience is a world-wide organisation that allows students to travel to a foreign destination and gain work experience relevant to their major. Last summer I contacted the IAESTE in search of my escape. In less than a month I got a job in Yugoslavia, the country of my origin and member country of the IAESTE. I packed my bags in August and set off for Europe. Upon arrival I settled into an apartment in downtown Belgrade that was my home for following four months. Before starting work I visited friends and relatives all over the region. Perhaps, the most memorable was my trip to the southern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina to visit my granny. Due to war, which ended in 1995, my grandmother was a refugee. Finally, last year my granny was able to move back to her home. Waking up in your parents hometown, in your grandmother's house, with a view of the old fortresses from the Ottoman era staring down at you from a nearby hill, was nothing short of magical.



In September, I started my coop term at Institute Mihajlo Pupin. The institute reminded me of SFU in that it has a great view and is located in a secluded forest on top of a hill. Currently, the institute has approximately half the employees they had a decade ago. The signs of economic hardships are obvious. Despite that employees have high morale. I shared an office with a retiree, Toni, who works as a contractor and a girl who just graduated from university. Toni has a masters degree in nuclear physics and speaks fluent French because he lived in Versailles for a while. His sense of humour kept all of us at work holding our jaws. Since he is the "know it all" type, people at the institute call him to fix anything that is broken. He even convinced the institute's translator that he is a repairman. It was fun to see the translator's face when I told her that Toni has a degree in nuclear physics. Toni wasn't the only interesting character around. My co-workers included: an alpine climber, a photographer, an academic etc.

Spending four months in Belgrade allowed me to truly enjoy everything the city has to offer. In September, Yugoslavia won the World Basketball Championships. The welcome home party for the players was a once in a lifetime event. I danced and sang with over 150,000 people. The event was risky, in that I had to duck the flying beer cans and water bottles that workers from the local brewery were tossing at the crowd for free. Also, I attended a Euro qualifier game between Finland and Yugoslavia. In addition, cultural events are varied and numerous in the fall. I watched a play at the National Theatre and attended several concerts including a Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra performance. Each of these tickets (soccer game, play, concert) cost me \$4. Amazing! I also had a chance to meet some fellow IAESTE exchange students. When talking to them I was curious how they perceived Yugoslavia and its people. I expected stories of culture shock, but instead as Fernando from Colombia summarised it: "The architecture is beautiful, the people are fun and know how to enjoy life, the girls are pretty, beer is cheap. My only complaint is the cold weather, but if I get to see snow for the first time in my life it will all be worth it."

For more info on IAESTE check out: [www.iaeste.org](http://www.iaeste.org)

## Stella's Do It Yourself by Stella Li

Have you ever had that craving for a rich gooey chocolate brownie but didn't know how to get one?? Wonder no more!! Here's another column on how anyone can obtain some rich warm brownies!!

As usual, here's the method of those banned from the kitchen:

1. Go to Safeway/Save On/Starbucks/local bakery.
2. Buy chocolate brownie.
3. Bring home and heat for 10 seconds in microwave.
4. Voila! Warm chocolate brownie!



For those who are not so inept in the kitchen but are not Martha Stewart, here's a method where most people will think you baked the brownies from scratch (this has been verified by yours truly). You can say you've had a bit of help from your friend, Betty Crocker (or whatever brand of brownie mix you buy).

1. Buy a box of brownie mix.
2. Read the box and buy the ingredients needed.
3. Make the brownies.

For those kitchen engineers, here's a recipe I've taken from All Recipes (<http://www.allrecipies.com/>).

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
  
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup confectioners' sugar



### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour an 8 inch square pan.
  2. In a large saucepan, melt 1/2 cup butter. Remove from heat, and stir in sugar, eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat in 1/3 cup cocoa, 1/2 cup flour, salt, and baking powder. Spread batter into prepared pan.
  3. Bake in preheated oven for 25 to 30 minutes. Do not overcook.
  4. To Make Frosting: Combine 3 tablespoons butter, 3 tablespoons cocoa, 1 tablespoon honey, 1 teaspoon vanilla, and 1 cup confectioners' sugar. Frost brownies while they are still warm.
- The recipe above makes 16 brownies.

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This year's deadline is May 9, 2003 at 4:00pm (Recipients will be notified of an award no later than July 31, 2003). Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.

To obtain an application form and submit your completed application, contact:

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